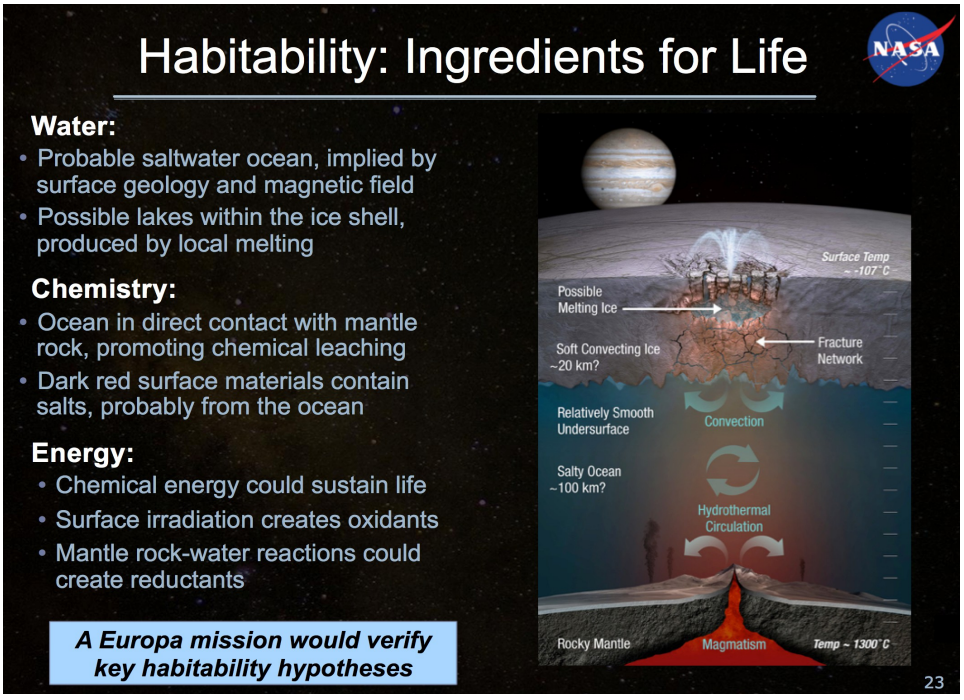
Space Science Seminar
Tuesday, 2015 July 28
10:30 a.m.
NSSTC/4078

The Europa Clipper: NASA's Next Solar System Flagship Mission

Dr. Melissa McGrath / SETI Institute, NASA/MSFC-emerita

Europa, one of the four large moons of Jupiter discovered by Galileo in 1610, has been a high priority target for NASA's solar system exploration program since the Galileo mission provided strong evidence for an extensive, subsurface liquid ocean sandwiched between a potentially active silicate interior and a highly dynamic surface ice shell. According to the 2013 Solar System Decadal Survey Europa "***offers one of the most promising extraterrestrial habitable environments, and a plausible model for habitable environments beyond our solar system***." Slated for launch some time in the 2020s, the Europa Clipper mission is designed to investigate Europa's potential habitability. The mission has recently passed Key Decision Point A, and instrument selections were announced in June. The mission is of interest to MSFC because of the possibility that it will be launched the on the SLS. This talk will provide a brief overview of the science goals and mission architecture, as well as a short summary of the instrument complement just selected.



http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/colloquia/